



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Thursday, April 6, 2006

Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Alfred Rubega
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

MAN INDICTED FOR PASSPORT RELATED FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that a federal Grand Jury has returned a two count indictment against 44-year-old Joseph Harry Amegah of 33 Gordon Circle, North Grafton, Massachusetts for making false statements in connection with fraudulently obtaining a U.S. passport.

The indictment charges that Amegah, who is a citizen of Ghana, attempted to obtain a United States passport by falsely stating on his passport application that he was born in Southbridge, Massachusetts, and by attaching a counterfeit birth certificate to his application that purported to show that he was born in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Amegah's passport application was received and reviewed by the National Passport Center located in Portsmouth. Amegah was charged with making a false statement to an agency of the federal government as a result of submitting the allegedly false passport application and allegedly counterfeit birth certificate.

If convicted of these offenses Amegah faces maximum prison terms of between three and ten years and maximum fines of \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the U.S. State Department. Amegah was arraigned on these charges today at the U.S. District Courthouse in Concord. Amegah was released on personal recognizance.

An indictment is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alfred Rubega.